(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government welcome the statement of the visiting Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Economic Relations, Mr. Oleg Davidov that the Russian Government had always nurtured the warmest relations with India and for this reason had declined to sell weapons to countries whose actions are inimical to Indian interests.

Vivekananda Rock Memorial

2401. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI :
SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA :
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government have been invited to the news-item captioned "Vivekananda rock memorial may be lost for ever" appearing in the 'Times of India', New Delhi dated 16th September, 1996;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken to protect the Vivekananda memorial from sea erosion and its preservation for all times to come?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanyakumari is maintained by the Vivekananda Memorial Trust. The deterioration reported in the news item is due to salt action. The Vivekananda Memorial Trust has taken action for protection of the Memorial with repellent silicon paint. As the Memorial is located in the sea, the problem of decay is to be attended to regularly.

Defence Budget Allocation

2402. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Army Chief has called for making the Defence budget "responsive" to defence requirements and streamlining the process of allocation for the sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to establish a link between the national security strategy to be pursued and the weapons to be purchased before taking a decision to purchase a weapon system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Chief of the Army Staff, while speaking, extempore, on the occasion of release of a book written by ex-Financial Adviser (Defence Services), mentioned words to the effect that 'the defence budget should be managed in a manner responsive to defence requirement'. There is a well defined system of estimating the defence requirements on the basis of the threat perceptions and contractual, obligatory, regular and recurrent commitments, in consultation with the Services Headquarters and Integrated Finance Division, Ministry of Finance, keeping in view the estimates of requirement and the security concerns projected by the Ministry of Defence, available resources and demands from other sectors, decide on the defence allocation.

(c) As a matter of policy, the requirements of defence are worked out in consonance with national strategic and security policy. While finalising the Acquisition Plan, interalia, the global and regional security environment as well as the technological environment assessment are also kept in view. The prioritised programmes of modernisation - purchase of weapon systems, for all the three Services, are carried out in a manner which is in line with our national policy and is designed to optimise the exploitation of the available resources.

[Translation]

Maudah Dam Project

2403. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for non completion of 'Maudah Dam Project' in Uttar Pradesh, which has been under construction for the last 21 years and which was expected to be completed within 10 years;

(b) the estimated cost, cost incurred till date and the amount paid as damages by the Government;

(c) the technical reasons for the cracks in the dam even before its completion and whether the Government have ordered any Inquiry into it;

(d) if so, whether the report is expected to be laid on the Table of the House soon;

(e) whether the cracks in the dam are due to the negligence of the officials;

(f) if so, the action taken against the guilty officials; and

(g) the time by which the project is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The Maudha Dam Project of Uttar Pradesh could not be completed so far mainly due to paucity of funds and land acquisition problems

(b) The latest estimated cost of the project as per 1.4.95 rates is Rs. 80.3 crores out of which an expenditure of Rs. 75.8 crores has been incurred upto 8/96.

(c) to (f). The dam breached once on 13.9.92 on its right flank during construction. The U.P. Government vide O.M. dated 17.9.92 constituted a Committee to investigate the reasons for breach of the dam. On recommendations of the Committee action has been initiated by the State Government against 5 officers and 6 officials by giving them charge sheets.

(g) The project is expected to be completed by March, 1997 excluding the Charkhari Pump Canal which is expected to be completed by March, 1988.

[English]

Population Affected by Diseases

2404. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether higher percentage of population of several States is in the grip of serious diseases and malnutrition; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check such serious diseases and malnutrition?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) The problem of infectious diseases and other serious diseases continue to be a matter of serious concern. The spectrum of these diseases is expanding with the occurence of new diseases and re-emergence of those which were once thought to have been eliminated. According to National Family Health Survey, 1992-93 about 53.4% of the population were mal-nourished. National Instt. of Nutrition have also reported that about 50% of the rural population were affected by chronic energy deficiency in 1993.

(b) National disease control programmes on Malaria, Kala-azar, T.B., Leprosy, Cancer etc., are in operation for the control of serious diseases. In addition, a National Apical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to formulate a nation wide disease surveillance network. The action points envisaged under the disease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

The Govt. of India has been implementing various Nutritional Programmes to improve the nutritional status of population. The Programmes are :

I. **Supplementary Feeding Programmes :**

(i) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)

(ii) Mid-day Meal Programme

(iii) Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

(iv) Balwadi Nutrition Programme.

(v) Wheat Based Nutrition Programme.

II. **Programmes for combating specific micro-nutrient deficiency diseases :**

(i) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme.

(ii) Programme to prevent Vitamin 'A' deficiency.

(iii) Programme to prevent Nutritional Anaemia due to Iron Deficiency.

(iv) Pilot Programme Against Micro-nutrient Malnutrition.

Nutrition Education Programmes are also carried out to bring nutritional awareness among the population. Other measures include (a) provision of essential food-grains at subsidised cost through Public Distribution System and (b) improving the purchasing power of the people through income generation schemes.

[Translation]

Election to Non-Permanent Seat in UN Security Council

2405. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA
SHRI JASWANT SINGH
SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any exercise was undertaken by the Government to assess the voting pattern before the election to the non-permanent seat in the UN Security Council held recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps that had been taken as a result of the assessment; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I K GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Government took all measures to project India's case and to ascertain the responses of other countries. While a number of indications of support were received, the election was conducted through secret ballot and voting intentions in many cases were not fully disclosed. It was decided to continue with the contest as that demonstrated belief in our credentials and the will to pursue them.